

# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85

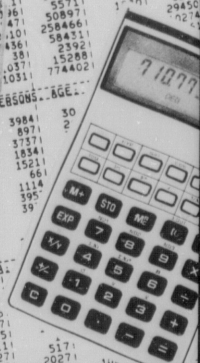
AUSTRALIA

PERSONS WORKED BY AGE BY SEX (CONT.)

AGE	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
15-19	119566	119566	239132
20-24	136348	136348	272696
25-29	83263	83263	166526
30-34	78732	78732	157464
35-39	63255	63255	126510
40-44	29450	29450	58900
45-49	10274	10274	20548
50-54	11956	11956	23912
55-59	10371	10371	20742
60-64	21341	21341	42682
65-69	12901	12901	25802
70-74	27131	27131	54262
75-79	1471	1471	2942
80-84	1031	1031	2062
85-89	38019	38019	76038
90-94	73650	73650	147300
95-99	96271	96271	192542
100+	60671	60671	121342
TOTAL	647341	647341	1294682

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# **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Annual Report 1984-85

Australian Government Publishing Service  
Canberra 1985

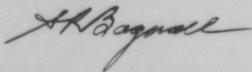
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The Honourable P. J. Keating M.P.  
Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia

In accordance with the provisions of section 24(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, I hereby submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, this Report for the year ended 30 June 1985.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A.R. Bagnall', with a stylized, flowing script.

A.R. Bagnall  
Acting Australian Statistician

26 August 1985



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Note. In this Report after the first reference the Australian Bureau of Statistics is referred to as the ABS or the Bureau, and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council as ASAC or the Advisory Council.



# Introduction

The principal legislation determining the functions and responsibilities of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is:

- *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*
- *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*
- *Census and Statistics Act 1905*

Under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* the Australian Statistician is required to submit to the Treasurer, for presentation to Parliament, an annual report on the operations of the Bureau. This is the tenth annual report by the Australian Statistician.

The contact for any inquiries or further information on the contents of the report is the Assistant Statistician, Co-ordination Branch at the Cameron Offices, Canberra—telephone (062) 52 5256.

# Functions and Management

## Functions

The ABS is the central statistical authority for the Commonwealth Government and, under agreements between the Commonwealth and the States, provides statistical services for the State governments. The functions of the ABS are defined in section 6 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* as follows:

- '(a) to constitute the central statistical authority for the Australian Government and, by arrangements with the Governments of the States, provide statistical services for those Governments;
- (b) to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate statistics and related information;
- (c) to ensure coordination of the operations of official bodies in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and related information, with particular regard to—
  - (i) the avoidance of duplication in the collection by official bodies of information for statistical purposes;
  - (ii) the attainment of compatibility between, and the integration of, statistics compiled by official bodies; and
  - (iii) the maximum possible utilization, for statistical purposes, of information, and means of collection of information, available to official bodies;
- (d) to formulate, and ensure compliance with, standards for the carrying out by official bodies of operations for statistical purposes;
- (e) to provide advice and assistance to official bodies in relation to statistics; and
- (f) to provide liaison between Australia, on the one hand, and other countries and international organisations, on the other hand, in relation to statistical matters.'

In addition, under the Government-to-Government Agreements entered into with the States pursuant to the *Statistics (Arrangements with States) Act 1956*, the ABS has a responsibility to State governments to provide certain statistical services specified in the separate agreements, together with such other statistical services 'as may reasonably be required for the purposes of the State ...'.

These arrangements offer substantial advantages. They involve fewer requests for information from people and businesses than if the Commonwealth and States both ran extensive statistical collections. They require less staff and funding than the total that would be required by separate Commonwealth and State statistical offices. They ensure the use of a single Australia-wide set of definitions in ABS collections, with consequent advantages for businesses supplying data. They keep to the forefront the desirability of interstate comparability of statistics.

A major aspect of these arrangements is that the Commonwealth agreed to meet the costs of providing a statistical service.



## Organisation

Besides the Central Office in Canberra the ABS has an office located in each State, administered by a Deputy Commonwealth Statistician (DCS) who has the dual responsibility of working under the direction of the Statistician and of providing statistical services to the State Government. An office is also established in Darwin. In four of the six States (Victoria and Queensland being the exceptions) the DCS is also the State Government Statistician.

The number and distribution of full-time operative staff in recent years is shown in the following table.

### DISTRIBUTION OF FULL-TIME OPERATIVE STAFF(a)

Office	Average monthly staff numbers		
	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Canberra	1 627	1 640	1 635
Sydney	458	473	477
Melbourne	416	411	429
Brisbane	306	310	312
Perth	214	213	211
Adelaide	220	213	212
Hobart	123	122	122
Darwin	24	28	28
Total	3 388	3 410	3 426

(a) Excludes staff on approved leave for periods of twelve weeks or longer.

Details for 1984-85 are given in Appendix 1. The top structure and senior staff at 30 June 1985 are shown in Appendix 2.

ABS expenditure in 1984-85 was \$116.9 million, of which by far the largest component was salaries. Other large items were expenditure on the computer enhancement program, operating costs of the computers, and payments to field interviewers (agents). Receipts totalled \$912,000, mostly from 'for sale' publications. Details of both expenditure and receipts are given in Appendix 3.

The distribution of expenditure across various statistical and services activities is shown in Appendix 4. Manpower statistics comprise the largest single program.

In order to provide official statistics, the ABS undertakes a large number of separate collections, ranging from periodic censuses of industry to regular surveys to provide current economic indicators, from household surveys on specific social or economic issues to the population census. Their frequency ranges from weekly to quinquennial or even longer. In addition, the ABS devotes considerable efforts, in close co-operation with Commonwealth and State administrative agencies, to producing statistical series as by-products of administrative processes such as import entry and motor vehicle registration.

Each field of statistics is the responsibility of a subject matter unit. These are organised into three Divisions: Economic Accounts; Economic Censuses and Surveys; and Demography, Social and Manpower. As far as possible, collections are undertaken within a common framework of concepts, definitions and classifications, which means that subject matter units need to operate in close consultation with each other.

Also, there is a high degree of interrelationship with the service functions organised into the Statistical and User Services, Computer Services, and Co-ordination and Management Divisions. The first provides assistance in sample survey design and in other statistical methodology, and undertakes the field collection and processing of population survey data. The Division also provides a central service for the dissemination of statistics and maintains a comprehensive register of businesses and organisations.

In order to produce relevant statistics the ABS must keep in touch with users regarding their statistical requirements and with respondents to collections regarding their ability to provide data. This is done at a number of levels, and through various channels depending on the area of statistics concerned.

At the highest level, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council, which was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, plays an active role regarding the direction and priorities of the ABS work program. The activities of the Council are described in its annual report to Parliament. The annual Conference of Statisticians, at which State governments are represented by a State official as well as by the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician in charge of each State Office of the ABS, is another forum, with particular reference to meeting State statistical needs. A statistical co-ordination and consultative mechanism also operates in each State.

The various subject matter units maintain ongoing contact with suppliers and users of data through a variety of other means including standing committees, user groups, conferences and seminars of representative organisations, and through day-to-day contact in the course of collecting and disseminating data. ABS officers outposted to government departments and authorities also play an important part in these respects.

## Management

The diverse activities involved in providing official statistical services require a considerable management effort to marshal resources in an optimal fashion. From the early 1970s the ABS became increasingly aware not only of the virtual impossibility of attempting to satisfy all demands, but also of the constraints of limits on public spending and the burden placed on respondents. Efforts to respond positively and responsibly to increasing demands, while staying within these constraints, led to a reshaping of management practices. What follows is an outline of the main features of the system of management of the ABS today.

A program/project framework, overlaid on the formal organisational structure, facilitates a co-ordinated approach to the planning, disposition and use of manpower and financial resources. Program/project managers are identified in Central Office and in each State Office. In essence this program/project management, together with the normal hierarchical line management within each office, forms the basis of an informal matrix management system across all offices.

Within this framework a rolling three year forward work program is developed. Before provision is made for staffing levels in future years, all proposals for new or extended collections are analysed to ensure that appropriate account has been taken of resource demands on the service areas whose contribution will be

essential to successful completion of the proposal. Estimates are made of staffing requirements for proposals judged to be of high priority. Staff estimates for ongoing work and for projects already approved are reviewed and extended a further year ahead. In order that feasibility studies or developmental activities are not commenced for projects unlikely to be implemented, regard is had to the total resources likely to be available to the Bureau within the three year period and to the total demands on service areas which the program would entail.

In drawing up the program, judgments about relative priorities of ongoing and proposed collections are made in the light of continuing consultations with users of statistics. Broad objectives are established for each program and specific goals to be achieved over the three year period are specified for each project.

Involvement of senior management in Central and State Offices begins in June each year. The forward work program and estimates which emerge are then examined by the Advisory Council, reconsidered in the light of its advice and then submitted to the Minister. Staff and financial estimates are forwarded to the Department of Finance.

As decisions are made by the Government on staffing and finance, resources available for the first year of the forward work program become the basis (along with the establishment of positions available to the Bureau) for controlling and monitoring the use of resources in all offices of the Bureau. Staff and financial resources, particularly for travel, overtime and payments to field interviewers, are allocated at project level to each office. The responsibility for the use of these resources lies with the respective project managers. The allocations are reviewed periodically during the year to take account of project experience and any changes in circumstances that have occurred or are foreseen. In addition, staff use and expenditure are monitored monthly at the project-by-office level.

An integral factor in this whole process is the program of reviews which has been proceeding since the mid-1970s. The purpose of the review program has been to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and to identify resources which may be diverted to other higher priority work. For statistical areas, the reviews include both statistical aspects (e.g. the purpose of the statistics and their justification) and managerial aspects (e.g. can the purpose be accomplished more efficiently and economically?). The two aspects are, of course, complementary. Reviews of service activities give comparable attention to purpose, justification and managerial aspects.

Regular assessments on a program/project basis are also made to ascertain if the goals set down in the work program are being achieved. In addition, heads of Central Office Branches and of the State Offices report formally to top management, on a rotation basis, on achievement against the agreed goals. In this way overall managerial effectiveness is monitored and senior managers both in Central Office and the State Offices have an opportunity to discuss problems with top management of the ABS.

This program/project system is further enhanced by periodic meetings of senior officers of the Bureau to consider general policy, statistical and administrative matters. One of the standing items on the agenda is the work program, which is discussed in detail before presentation to the Advisory Council.

From time to time, inter-office conferences are held of representatives of subject matter or service units, or those engaged on particular projects. The benefits in communication across a geographically dispersed organisation are significant.

Overlaid on these management practices are some special arrangements to ensure the successful redevelopment of computing systems. A standard systems development methodology has been adopted. All work is undertaken by multi-discipline project teams under the direction of line managers, aided by management and technical review committees. Periodic reports are furnished to senior management.

A Joint Management Review (JMR) of the top management roles in State Offices of the ABS, and management services functions in all offices, was conducted during the year by a team comprising two external management consultants and representatives of the ABS and the Public Service Board. The team made a large number of recommendations affecting ABS management practices and procedures and organisation structures. An implementation steering committee (ISC) chaired by the Statistician has been established to guide and oversee consideration of the recommendations and their implementation.

A summary of the main issues emerging from the JMR and being actively addressed by the ISC is given below:

- Corporate planning and decision making

Although the ABS has well established management systems for its ongoing and forward work programs, these would benefit further from the articulation of a corporate plan and of the main policies and considerations which affect decision making in the ABS.

- Resource management

The present program/project framework needs to be reviewed to reduce the number of projects to a more practical level for budgeting, monitoring and control purposes and to allow greater consultation and flexibility in its operation.

- Role, performance and structure of State Offices

The role and structure of State Offices need to be reviewed with the dual aim of improving both the overall management of national statistical activities and the servicing of State government statistical requirements.

- Management services - functions and structures

The functions and structures of the management services units in both Central and State Offices need to be reviewed and the areas restructured to enable them to commence work on a number of initiatives.

- Job design, organisation review and personnel development

A number of aspects have been identified as being in need of attention in order that the ABS can meet fully the responsibilities of a modern organisation in these areas.

- Small scale technology

There is a need for more extensive application of small scale technology in the operations of the ABS, and the establishment of clearer guidelines and allocation of responsibilities to facilitate the introduction of this technology.

- General statistical recommendations

These include the need for better co-ordination of statistical activities between the ABS and other government agencies and further dev. of administrative by-product systems; enhanced user liaison services; more analytical presentation of data; higher priority for the use of electronic media in information dissemination and greater emphasis on monitoring the quality of statistical output.

In view of the large number of recommendations and the wide application which many of them will have throughout the ABS, implementation will require substantial resources. A restructuring of the top levels of the State Offices and the Co-ordination and Management Division in Central Office will provide some senior level resources to address this work, but some additional staff ceiling will also be necessary to make any significant impact in the short term.

# The ABS Program of Industry Collections

## Introduction

The ABS has an ongoing program of censuses and surveys of industries, in order to provide statistics on the structure, operations, output and performance of major sectors of the Australian economy. It includes annual censuses of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and electricity and gas utilities, and less frequent censuses or surveys of retailing and selected service industries, wholesaling, construction and transport. Monthly or quarterly collections are also undertaken to provide indicators of current activity in a number of these industries or on broader economic aspects such as capital expenditure and stocks.

This section of the Annual Report describes these collections, with emphasis on the larger annual and periodic collections, the uses made of the resulting statistics, the underlying framework within which they are undertaken, and planned developments for the future.

## Framework for industry collections

Large statistical collections on agriculture and manufacturing have been conducted in one form or another since the last century. To a large extent, annual censuses of agriculture, manufacturing and mining, and periodic censuses of the retail industry, conducted up to the late 1960s, were independent of one another. The lists of businesses covered by each census were built up largely independently of one another, with no great attention given to the mixture of activities undertaken by businesses which might straddle more than one industry sector (e.g. a business which engaged in both manufacturing and retailing). Also, not all the information was collected on a consistent basis across the sectors concerned.

As a result, there were considerable limitations on the statistics produced—overlapping, lack of relatability and comparability and unnecessary duplication in collections. To remedy these defects and to pave the way for wider coverage of economic activity, in the mid 1960s the ABS set about developing a framework within which industry statistics could be collected in a more integrated way. A major milestone was reached with the conduct of integrated censuses of manufacturing, mining, retailing and wholesaling in respect of 1968-69. From this basis, the ABS has continued to develop and extend a program of integrated censuses and surveys of industries. An outline of the program from 1977-78 is contained in Appendix 5.

Integrated industry collections require a framework of concepts as well as operational facilities for implementing them. The anatomy of the components of the economy and their interrelationships which are inherent in the national accounts provide the conceptual framework for the collection of statistics on industry. In order to produce industry statistics within this conceptual framework, it has been necessary for the ABS to develop:

- A standard definition of business units.
- A standard classification of industries to which business units can be classified in a mutually exclusive way.
- A register of business units, containing not only names and addresses but also the characteristics of their hierarchical structure, the organisation of their activities and their related industry classification, so that the population to be covered by a particular industry collection can be delineated with reasonable precision.
- Standard definitions of the items of data to be collected, so that the statistics collected are consistent and comparable within and across industries.

Regarding business units, it is sufficient for the present purpose to refer only to the two main units — the establishment and the enterprise. The establishment is the basic unit for the purpose of industry collections, defined in general terms as a unit covering all the operations carried on under the ownership of one enterprise at a single physical location, such as a factory, mine or shop. The enterprise is defined broadly as an operating legal entity comprising one or more establishments. Generally, each industry collection obtains data on all establishments classified to that industry. Where an enterprise operates more than one establishment, it reports in respect of each establishment classified to the industry concerned, as well as giving summary data on certain items relating to the enterprise as a whole.

Classifying business units according to their industry is done by reference to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), which enables the mutually exclusive classification of each unit to the industry appropriate to its predominant activity, even if it is also engaged in secondary activities predominant in other industries.

Based on these units and industry classifications the ABS has developed a register of business units containing names and addresses, the hierarchical links between enterprises and their establishments and their industry classification. This is the central facility which enables the ABS to identify the population of business units from which information is collected in respect of each particular industry census or survey. It eliminates overlaps or gaps between collections in respect of different industry sectors and ensures consistent delineation of the business units for which data are collected.

Regarding data items, standard definitions are used across all industry collections for employment, wages and salaries, turnover, capital expenditure and stocks; standard definitions for commodities have been established through the Australian Standard Commodity Classification (which is compatible with the Australian standard commodity classifications of imports and exports). The adoption of these standard definitions ensures that the data collected on the same item are consistent and comparable both within an industry and across different industries.

Implementation of this framework for industry collections would not have been practicable without computer-based systems. The Integrated Register Information System maintains the register of business units, identifies the units to be covered by each particular industry census or survey, and provides name and address and other indicative information required for the dispatch of statistical returns. The other main system, the Integrated Economic Statistical Information System, provides the facilities for processing and tabulating data.

## Users and uses of industry statistics

The program of annual and periodic industry censuses and surveys has been developed in response to government and private sector needs for comprehensive information on industry structure, performance and activities. The resulting statistics service a wide spectrum of uses, from the macroeconomic to issues relating to specific industries and areas. Needs serviced include policy advising, monitoring and evaluation at total economy or individual industry level; specific studies within and between industries; and broader issues such as taxation, industry assistance and small business. Commonwealth, State and local authorities each make their individual demands on statistical services. The same is true of the larger business enterprises, industry associations, and academics and consultants engaged on work relating to industry and the economy.

In addition to these uses, industry statistics are required for the compilation of broader statistics of great interest to government and private sectors, such as the national accounts and indexes of production.

Thus in running a program of industry censuses and surveys, the ABS has to seek a balance between collecting enough data to meet ongoing and ad hoc needs of a wide range of users, and keeping its collection activities within the constraints of resources and an acceptable level of burden on those from whom the information is collected. A vital factor in this equation is maintaining a clear understanding of users' needs and of the burden on suppliers of data, which the ABS endeavours to do through a variety of ongoing and ad hoc consultative processes.

### Annual collections

The ABS conducts annual industry collections from the mining, manufacturing and utilities (electricity and gas) sectors. Statistics are published on the structure and operations of the establishments which comprise these sectors, as well as the goods and services produced by them.

Periodically, statistics are published on industry concentration, in terms of employment and value added. They also show the extent of the contribution to each industry by enterprises engaged primarily in the activities of that industry and by those engaged primarily in other industries.

In the mining sector, statistics relating to the structure of the industry are obtained from ABS returns, but commodity statistics on minerals produced are obtained mainly from State government authorities, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of collections.

In the mid 1970s, the existing annual agricultural census was brought into the integrated framework of establishment and enterprise units. However, this census differs from other industry collections in that it concentrates on land use, livestock numbers and output measures, and collects little in the way of financial data. Resources have not been available for the regular conduct of the ABS agricultural finance survey, for which an integrated framework was highly desirable.

### Periodic collections

Since the mid 1970s the ABS has built into its program a number of periodic collections from other major industries.



Censuses of retail and selected services industries have been conducted for 1973-74 (on a somewhat limited basis) and 1979-80. This census is the largest of the industry collections, involving some 225,000 respondents. In addition to providing information on the structure of the industry and on commodities sold, the results of the census are essential for maintaining the reliability of the indicator series from the monthly and quarterly retail surveys.

A construction industry survey was introduced in respect of 1978-79, providing for the first time comprehensive statistics on the industry and its place in the economy, on a basis comparable with statistics on other industries covered by the program. This was followed by a wholesale industry survey for 1981-82, the first collection in this sector since the integrated collections for 1968-69. The main purpose of this collection was to provide data needed for the national accounts.

The latest addition to the coverage of the industry survey program has been a transport industry survey for 1983-84. As in the earlier case of the construction industry survey, this was the first time that comprehensive statistics of the structure and operations of businesses engaged in all modes of transport have been collected. On this occasion, because a significant proportion of road freight activity is undertaken by businesses whose prime activity lies outside the transport industry, the ABS supplemented the main collection by a parallel survey of road freight activities by businesses in other industries such as manufacturing, mining, retailing, agriculture and construction. This approach is a further illustration of the way in which the framework developed for industry collections has enabled the ABS to focus on particular industry sectors and tailor its collections accordingly. The results of these surveys will become available progressively during 1985-86.

### **Plans for future collections**

The future program of industry collections shown in Appendix 5 is based on a continuation of the annual censuses and repeats of less frequent collections. Specifically, a construction survey is being conducted in respect of 1984-85; a retail census is planned for 1985-86; and a further transport survey is proposed for 1988-89. A changed collection methodology involving the use of sample survey techniques is proposed for the next retail census, following the procedures developed in the construction, wholesale and transport surveys. This reduces both the resource requirements and respondent burden, while still meeting the main requirements of users. The need for all data items as collected in the 1979-80 retail census will be reviewed. In addition, new data items which reflect the changing retail situation such as the use of electronic equipment (bar-code readers, point of sale terminals), details of store trading hours and the use of casual labour are being considered for possible inclusion. Also being investigated are coverage of goods sold on commission and/or consignment, under franchising arrangements, and from non-fixed premises such as door-to-door sales, direct marketing, vending machines and informal markets. During the next six months there will be extensive discussions with State and regional authorities, with private industry users and respondents.

There is a substantial task ahead in assisting business managers to obtain a better understanding of the uses made of statistics, rather than considering statistical collections to be an unwanted interference in their business. It is planned to provide a telephone advisory service to assist respondents who have problems in completing their forms. There is a particular need for guidance on how to provide careful estimates for commodity dissections for which businesses may not have maintained records.

All retailing establishments will be asked to report commodity and key operating data such as employment, whilst only a sample of retailers will be asked for more detailed operating and structural data. Commodity data on a census basis will provide:

- Detail for small areas, needed for the planning of new retail facilities and infrastructure, and for analysing investment opportunities.
- Better benchmarks for use in the quarterly surveys of retail sales which are used, inter alia, to provide estimates of private final consumption expenditure in the national accounts.
- More accurate quarterly estimates of commodity sales at the State level.

A repeat of the wholesale survey, which is considered to warrant less frequent collection than others, is not envisaged until some time after 1989-90.

The main innovation for the future program is the proposal to conduct collections from various services sectors for 1986-87 and 1987-88. This initiative is in response to the growing importance of these sectors and consequential demands for statistics on them by government and other users. The ABS is currently consulting users on their requirements with the aim of identifying the services industries and their characteristics for which the highest priority needs exist. The actual services industries to be covered in the two years will be decided in the light of these consultations.

A further innovation is a survey of business energy usage to be conducted for 1985-86.

### Other industry collections

The ABS also conducts a number of monthly and quarterly industry surveys within the same framework used for the annual and periodic collections. Reference has already been made to the monthly and quarterly retail surveys and their link with the periodic retail census. Other ABS surveys of similar frequency undertaken within the integrated framework relate to manufacturers' sales, capital expenditure, stocks, gross operating surplus, employment and earnings.

### Respondent burden

As stated previously, one of the major concerns of the ABS is to maintain a balance between meeting the statistical needs of government, business and other sectors of the community and keeping within reasonable limits the reporting burden imposed on those who supply the basic data.

A full account of the means by which the ABS endeavours to limit respondent burden in its collection activities was given in the 1980-81 Annual Report. Some of the main methods used in industry surveys are:

- Using sampling techniques rather than complete coverage wherever possible.
- Using size cut-offs, or other coverage restrictions, in order to exclude from collections those businesses which in total do not make a significant contribution to the main statistical items produced by the collections, or which can be adequately accounted for in some other way.

- Using abbreviated forms to avoid asking smaller businesses to provide all the detail needed from larger businesses.
- Using forms tailored specifically to the known activities of each individual business, thus reducing the size of forms by eliminating items not relevant to that business.
- Restricting query action in proportion to the potential effects of reporting errors on the main statistical items produced by the collections.

## ABS Activities in 1984-85

During the year the ABS continued its attempts to satisfy the considerable demand for more or better statistics, within the constraints of available resources and the need to limit respondent burden. Some of the main innovations and activities during the year are outlined below.

The household expenditure survey was completed at the end of 1984 and preliminary results were released shortly afterwards, in time for use in preparation for the 1985 Taxation Review Summit. A transport industry survey was conducted for the first time. Regional estimates of data on various topics obtained through household surveys were also produced for the first time.

Proposals tabled in Parliament for the collection of additional statistics are listed in Appendix 6.

Following extensive consultation between users and the ABS, the Government decided on the topics to be included in the 1986 Population Census, the total content of which will be about the same as the 1981 Census.

Looking ahead to 1985-86, preparations will reach a peak for the Population Census to be held on 30 June 1986. A construction industry survey will be conducted, and a survey on household energy usage will be undertaken, to be followed by a complementary survey of industry energy usage. Work will continue on the feasibility of a survey of labour on-costs and an extension of collections on services industries. Existing collections will continue to be reviewed against users' needs and priorities. Development and review of computing systems will continue to be a major activity.

Details follow of the main activities in each program.

# Economic Statistics

Economic censuses are designed to provide detailed information on industry structure and to facilitate valid comparisons across geographical areas and between different industries. Surveys of selected businesses are designed to provide timely and regular indicators of economic activity. Economic censuses and surveys are also important sources of data for national accounts estimates and input-output tables.

## National accounts

The system of national accounts presents, in a systematic and comprehensive way, summaries of economic transactions that take place in the Australian economy and between Australia and the rest of the world. The usefulness of the accounts derives largely from the way in which data are brought together from virtually all available sources and presented as far as possible in a conceptually consistent way both for a given period and over time. The accounts are basically in accordance with the United Nations System of National Accounts.

To present a current picture of the national economy, summary national income and expenditure accounts are published as soon as possible after the end of each quarter, in terms of both current and constant prices. However, much of the more reliable information needed for the accounts does not become available until long after the publication of preliminary figures. Estimates for the most recent quarters are therefore based on limited data and successive revisions are necessary as additional information becomes available.

A more detailed and more firmly based picture of the national economy is provided by various annual publications such as the input-output tables, estimates of gross product by industry and the annual national income and expenditure publication.

Activities during the year included:

- Development of estimates of real estate transfer expenses for inclusion in the annual and quarterly national accounts. These expenses, which in 1983-84 amounted to more than \$2 billion, are shown as a component of private gross fixed capital expenditure.
- Introduction of a number of improvements to the national accounts following significant conceptual and classificatory changes made to the public finance data system. (See also the section on public finance on page 17.)
- Publication in March 1985 of the Occasional Paper, *The Effects of Rebasings the Constant Price Estimates of the Australian National Accounts*, in which the effects of changing the reference year of the prices used in these estimates are assessed.
- Publication of *Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables (Commodity Details)*, 1978-79, which shows comparable information on the values, for about 1500 commodities, of Australian production, imports and exports. The publication includes concordances between items in the Input-Output Commodity Classification, Australian production commodity classifications, Australian Import Commodity Classification and Australian Export Commodity Classification.
- Use of input-output models to analyse the impact of different taxation regimes on the prices of goods and services going into producing industries and goods and services purchased by households. This work was done for use in the preparation of the draft White Paper on Reform of the Australian Taxation System.

## International accounts

The international accounts program produces statistics on the balance of payments, foreign investment, and foreign ownership and control.

Activities during the year included:

- Completion of work on a review of the monthly 'ticket' collection of non-trade foreign receipts and payments. With effect from 1 July 1985, further improvements in the efficiency of the collection and further reductions in the reporting burden on banks will be achieved. More accurate measures of certain 'invisible' items in the balance of payments are expected to result.
- Commencement of a review of the classification structure and presentation of balance of payments statistics, to take account of the latest statistical standards, changes in user requirements and changes in data availability. The aim is to publish, in early 1986, new tables which reflect the results of the review.
- Commencement of work on the reintroduction of a survey of consultancy services provided overseas. The survey, which will relate to 1984-85, will provide users with the first statistics in this field since 1979-80.
- Continuation of the redesign and development of computer processing systems used for foreign investment and balance of payments statistics. This is expected to lead to more detailed and timely publication of statistics.
- Commencement of the redesign of foreign investment statistical collections, methodologies and output in order to implement progressively the recommendations of the framework for foreign investment statistics completed in December 1982. Implementation of the framework will represent a significant step forward in standardising Australia's foreign investment statistics.
- Development of a new quarterly survey of Australian portfolio investment abroad, made necessary as a result of significant increases in investment flows of this kind. The new survey, which will commence in respect of the September quarter 1985, will improve the accuracy and level of detail of foreign investment and balance of payments statistics.
- Publication of foreign ownership and control statistics for the mining and manufacturing industries in respect of 1982-83.
- Publication of foreign control statistics for new capital expenditure by private enterprises in respect of 1982-83.
- Continuation of the study of foreign ownership of agricultural land and foreign ownership and control of agricultural businesses. The results of this study are expected to be published in October 1985.
- Commencement of studies of foreign control of enterprises engaged in life and general insurance and registered financial corporations.
- Commencement of the design of a computer processing system for the conduct of the biennial survey of shareholdings and the determination of foreign ownership and control characteristics of enterprises in the survey. Automation is expected to result in more efficient use of resources and improved timeliness of foreign ownership and control statistics.

## Prices

In addition to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the prices program undertakes the compilation of indexes relating to imports and exports, inputs and outputs of manufacturing industry, and materials used in the building industry.

Activities during the year included:

- Continuation of work on reviewing the composition and weighting of the CPI, scheduled for completion in the second half of 1986. This review will make use of information on expenditure patterns revealed by the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey.
- As part of the overall review, preparation of a discussion paper on the treatment of home ownership costs in the CPI. This was distributed to a wide cross section of users to encourage public comment and debate before decisions are made about a future course of action.
- Continuation of the review and reweighting of the price index of materials used in manufacturing industry, including the development of separate 'materials used' price indexes for manufacturing subdivisions of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification. This review is scheduled for completion late in 1985.
- Completion of a major investigation into the extent, and effects on reported prices, of the discounting practices of businesses providing information for building materials price indexes and price indexes of articles produced by manufacturing industry. The results of the investigation have been used to revise many previously published index numbers and to improve reporting standards for the future.
- Commencement of development of a new computer processing system to be used in producing all the price indexes relating to imports, exports and the manufacturing and building industries.

## Public finance

The major objective of the public finance program is to provide statistical information on revenue, outlay and financing transactions of Commonwealth, State, Territory and local governments and their subsidiary bodies.

In addition to a range of annual publications, the program is responsible for the compilation of quarterly statistics for inclusion in the national accounts and the provision of detailed financial statistics, for individual local government authorities, on magnetic tape and microfiche.

Activities during the year included:

- In conjunction with the implementation of a new computer processing system, adoption of revised concepts, definitions and classifications of public sector units and their transactions, with the aim of improving the accuracy and timeliness of the relevant statistics.
- Completion of a review of the public sector component of the quarterly national accounts estimates, and commencement of the implementation of improvements in coverage, range of data collected and estimation methodology.

## Private finance

The private finance program collects data on the lending activity and financial structure of banks, building societies, credit unions, finance companies, cash management trusts and superannuation funds. Several of the collections are undertaken in co-operation with authorities such as the Reserve Bank of Australia and State registrars of building societies and credit unions.

Activities during the year included:

- Continuation of work on the rationalisation of financial statistics. This is a joint project of the ABS, Treasury and the Reserve Bank, in close consultation with the institutions concerned, aimed at reducing respondent burden, increasing data available on lending activity and achieving greater consistency of definitions and concepts across collections.
- Publication of the results of a census of public and private sector self-administered superannuation funds in respect of 1982-83. The census will provide the basis for an improved annual survey of these superannuation funds.
- Development of a survey of private sector superannuation funds administered by life insurance companies, in respect of 1984-85. These statistics will complement those being produced in respect of private sector self-administered funds.
- Completion of a feasibility study into the introduction of a quarterly collection from unit trusts. The statistics which will become available from the new collection, to be introduced in September 1985, will fill a major gap in financial statistics which has occurred as a result of the rapid growth in unit trusts in recent years.

## Agriculture

The main projects in the agriculture program are an annual agricultural commodity census, commodity surveys and the production of a range of derived statistics, including the value of agricultural commodities produced and the apparent consumption of foodstuffs and nutrients.

Activities during the year included:

- Continued development and enhancement of computerised facilities to improve the timeliness and efficiency of the program's data processing system.
- Redesign of the Agricultural Data Dissemination Service (ADDS) which provides users with data from the agricultural census on either magnetic tape or microfiche.

## Construction

The main projects in the construction program are monthly statistics of building approvals and dwelling commencements as reported by local government and other approving authorities, quarterly surveys of building activity and of construction (other than building), and a periodic survey of the construction industry.

Activities during the year included:

- Preparatory work for the conduct of a construction industry survey in respect of 1984-85. Discussions with major users and testing of forms have justified extension of the survey to include expanded occupational data on apprentices, and more details from public sector enterprises engaged in repair and maintenance activities.
- Commencement of the redevelopment of the building statistics processing system with a view to overcoming deficiencies in the existing system, particularly those adversely affecting the timeliness of the statistics.



## Transport

The transport program covers the collection and dissemination of monthly statistics on new motor vehicle registrations and road traffic accidents involving fatalities, quarterly statistics on road traffic accidents and interstate road freight movements, annual statistics on the rail industry, a triennial survey of motor vehicle usage and an associated motor vehicle census, and a periodic economic survey of the transport industry.

Activities during the year included:

- Preparation for the triennial survey of motor vehicle usage and motor vehicle census in respect of the year ended 30 September 1985.
- Dispatch of forms for, and processing of, the first transport industry survey, conducted in respect of 1983-84. The survey will provide statistics on the structure and operations of businesses engaged in all modes of transport. In addition, because a large proportion of road freight activity is undertaken by businesses outside the transport industry, a separate but related survey was conducted to cover road freight activity by non-transport businesses such as those primarily engaged in manufacturing, mining, retailing and construction.

## Tourism

The tourism program includes a quarterly survey of tourist accommodation activity and other periodic surveys.

Activities during the year included:

- Completion, in conjunction with the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism, of a review of user needs for statistics relating to tourism. The recommendations of the review are currently being considered.
- Publication of *Domestic Travel and Tourism Survey, 1983*. Information from this household survey, covering the period February 1983 to January 1984, includes duration, origin and destination, time of year and main purpose of trip as well as type of accommodation used.

## Mining and energy

The main element in this program is an annual census of the mining industry, conducted with the co-operation and assistance of State government mines departments. The census provides data on the structure and operations of the industry, comparable with those available in respect of manufacturing industry. The program also includes energy statistics and quarterly and annual estimates of mineral exploration effort.

Activities during the year included:

- Publication of statistics and provision of unidentified unit record data on magnetic tape on household energy consumption in respect of 1982-83, as the second stage of the release of data collected in the June 1983 National Household Energy Survey.
- Pilot testing of questionnaires and procedures for the 1985-86 household survey of domestic energy usage.
- Questionnaire design and project evaluation for the proposed 1985-86 survey of business usage and storage of fuels.

## **Manufacturing**

The manufacturing program includes annual censuses of manufacturing and electricity and gas production and distribution, and monthly and quarterly surveys of manufacturing production.

Activities during the year included:

- Collection in the 1983-84 census of information on materials used in manufacturing.
- Publication of industry concentration statistics from the 1982-83 census.
- Completion of a study into the feasibility of computerising the monthly and quarterly surveys of manufacturing production. Work is proceeding on the development of the recommended system, with the objective of producing more timely statistics.

## **Retailing and wholesaling**

This program includes a monthly survey of retail sales and periodic censuses or surveys of retail, wholesale and selected services industries.

Activities during the year included:

- Following a wide-ranging assessment of user needs, development of a strategy for the future program of censuses and surveys covering the retail and services sectors of the economy. The next retail census will be conducted in respect of 1985-86 and the first of two surveys designed to collect information relating to certain industries in the services sector is scheduled for the 1986-87 reference year.
- Intensive investigations into the accuracy of statistics obtained from retail surveys. These resulted in improved collection arrangements.

## **Enterprise statistics**

This program covers the collection and publication of some of the quarterly indicators of economic activity in Australia. It is also responsible for surveys of expenditure and manpower devoted to research and experimental development in Australia, and the production of enterprise statistics from ABS annual and periodic economic collections.

Activities during the year included:

- Completion of methodological and user reviews for these collections and commencement of the redevelopment of the computer systems to process them.
- Compilation of results from a survey of interest, rent, royalties and dividends in respect of 1983-84.
- Publication of results from a small sample survey measuring research and experimental development in Australia in 1983-84.

## **Classification**

This program develops and maintains statistical classifications used by the ABS and other government agencies. Classifications, together with other conceptual standards, define and present in logical structures the data items (such as commodities) and the broader economic and other categories (such as industries and geographical areas) in respect of which statistics can be collected, compiled and published. Classifications are thus a major determinant

of the usefulness of statistical output. The principal classifications and related standards covered by the program are industry, commodity, geographic and economic sector classifications.

Activities during the year included:

- Publication of the 1983 edition of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification and its implementation in the 1983-84 Transport Industry Survey and other collections.
- Update of the Australian Standard Commodity Classification for 1983-84 and commencement of work on the 1984-85 edition. This classification enables comparable commodity statistics of imports, exports and domestic production to be compiled and serves as a framework for improving comparability between commodity items in ABS statistical series.
- Publication of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification.
- Continued participation in the review by the United Nations Statistical Office of the Standard International Trade Classification, the International Standard Industrial Classification and related classifications.

### **Economic statistics integration**

This program provides a service to other statistical programs by co-ordinating the planning of economic censuses and surveys and by establishing and maintaining standard concepts and definitions.

Activities during the year included:

- A research program to maintain, review and update the standard definitions relating to the treatment of business units for statistical purposes, to provide for changes in business practice and for the progressive extension of economic censuses and surveys into new fields.
- Introduction of a program of staff training in the basic elements of integrated economic statistics.
- Discussions with the Australian Taxation Office leading to amendments to the *Income Tax Assessment Act* to permit ABS access, on a confidential basis for statistical purposes only, to information from the income tax records of identified businesses.

### **Trade**

The trade and shipping program covers statistics of exports, imports, imports cleared for home consumption, shipping, excise and interstate trade. In addition to monthly and annual foreign trade publications, many special tabulations are undertaken on request and many users subscribe to a service which provides them with regular monthly or quarterly information on individual commodities.

Activities during the year included:

- Continuation of work associated with the scheduled adoption in Australia, from 1 January 1987, of a new international convention, entitled the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, which will be used for the collection and presentation of detailed import and export statistics.
- Extensive liaison with the Australian Customs Service to improve the timeliness and accuracy of data on export transactions.

# Demographic, Social and Manpower Statistics

Statistics are produced on many aspects of the Australian community, from births, deaths and marriages, through health, welfare, education, crime, employment and unemployment. A large amount of data is collected at the quinquennial censuses of population and housing, and other demographic, social and manpower statistics are derived as by-products of administrative processes, from household surveys and from surveys of businesses.

## Social surveys and indicators

The program has three main streams of work: the development, processing and dissemination of data from social surveys; the compilation of statistics on specific social welfare groups; and establishment of guidelines for the integrated development of social and demographic statistics through standard concepts, definitions and classifications.

Activities during the year included:

- Release in February 1985 of preliminary data from the 1984 Household Expenditure Survey, detailing the expenditure patterns of households cross classified by type of goods or services, level of income and household size. Data from the survey were used by the Economic Planning Advisory Council, the Treasury and other bodies such as the Department of Social Security in preparation for the 1985 Taxation Review Summit.
- Release, on magnetic tape, of unit record data from the 1982 Income and Housing Survey. These data will allow users to produce cross classified tables as well as enabling them to undertake more sophisticated statistical analysis of income data for use in economic and welfare policy development.
- Publication of the first edition of *Australian Standard Welfare Activities Classification*, developed jointly by the ABS, the Department of Social Security and State welfare departments.
- Release in January 1985 of preliminary results of the survey of ex-service personnel, conducted in June 1984. These provide information on the war service of veterans, their economic status and housing characteristics, and will be used to monitor the effects of government policy on veterans.

## Social statistics

The social program includes statistics relating to health, education, crime, justice and other social matters. A survey was conducted in November 1984 to provide information on child care needs in Australia. A small unit has been established to develop statistics on Aborigines.

Publications during the year included:

- The fourth issue of *Social Indicators, Australia*, which presents statistics relating to areas such as health, education, income and working life.

- A social report on youth, which is a contribution by the ABS to the International Youth Year and presents a statistical profile of youth covering a number of areas of social interest including education, employment, income and housing.
- The first of a series of annual publications containing statistics on a comparable basis on government and non-government schools, students and staff.
- Preliminary results from the crime victims survey conducted in the period February 1983 to January 1984.
- Preliminary results from the 1983 Australian Health Survey on the health status of the population, and use of and need for health services and facilities.
- Results from the November 1983 survey on children's dental health and immunisations.
- Results from a survey conducted in May 1984 on the extent of private health insurance cover of wage and salary earners in capital cities.

## Manpower

The manpower program provides statistics on the components and characteristics of the labour force such as employment, unemployment, job vacancies, award rates of pay, earnings, hours of work and other working conditions. It also covers employment injuries, industrial disputes, trade union membership, and award coverage.

Monthly estimates of employment and unemployment are based on the labour force survey of a sample of households. In most months of the year, supplementary questions are asked on detailed aspects of the labour force, including, in 1984-85, persons not in the labour force and persons marginally attached to the labour force, discouraged jobseekers, characteristics of unemployed persons, weekly earnings of employees and non-wage employment benefits, labour mobility, labour force experience in the twelve months to February, educational attainment, retirement intentions, apprentices, attendance at educational institutions, transition from education to work, re-entrants to the labour force and underemployment. A regular flow of publications, containing the results of these monthly surveys, continued throughout the year.

Estimates of employed wage and salary earners, average weekly earnings, job vacancies and overtime are based on quarterly sample surveys of employers selected from the ABS register of businesses. From a sample survey of employers conducted every second year, estimates are produced on the distribution and composition of employee earnings and hours.

The award rates of pay indexes, constructed from data obtained from employer surveys, are updated each month using information provided by wage fixing authorities. Monthly statistics of industrial disputes and annual statistics of trade union membership are obtained by direct collection methods, while statistics of industrial accidents produced by each ABS State Office are obtained from administrative data.

Other activities during the year included:

- Development of procedures and systems to allow the regular release, from April 1985, of regional estimates from household surveys.
- Conduct of a special survey of pay periods in September 1984 from a sample of employers to provide the basis for seasonally adjusting the 'wages, salaries and supplements' item in the national accounts.

- Commencement of the May 1985 survey of employees to obtain statistics on the distribution and composition of employee earnings and hours and on award coverage. Results from the equivalent survey relating to May 1983 were published in September 1984.
- Commencement of work on the feasibility of a survey of labour costs.
- Redevelopment of the annual publication, *Labour Statistics, Australia* to enhance its utility as a general reference source for labour market data.
- Development of *A Guide to Labour Statistics* (to be released in the second half of 1985), a companion volume to *Labour Statistics, Australia*. It will provide information on the concepts, sources and methods of collection of labour statistics, as well as details concerning the comparability of labour data available from various sources.
- Completion of the development of the occupation structure for the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO).

### Population census

During 1984-85 the main emphasis was on development of the 1986 Census of Population and Housing. However, the year also saw the completion of the output program from the 1981 Census.

The Government announced on 25 February 1985 its decision on the topics to be included in the census to be held on Monday 30 June 1986. This decision followed an ABS submission developed after extensive evaluation of representations from users and the public, and consideration by the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. The content of the 1986 Census and the procedures for the conduct of the census were described in a document *1986 Census of Population and Housing: Content and Procedures* tabled in the Parliament on 25 February.

The census will seek a total of 46 responses from households, compared with 43 responses required for the 1981 Census. It will include questions on each person's ancestry and on language other than English spoken at home. These questions are aimed at improving census data collected on the ethnic composition of Australia's population, and providing data for planning and evaluating services to migrants and ethnic communities.

A number of improvements to census data on families are planned for the 1986 Census. First, the inclusion of a question on usual residents temporarily absent will allow information about family members temporarily absent on census night to be included in the coding of family structures. This will overcome the effect created by temporarily absent spouses in previous censuses, leading to overstatement of the number of single-parent families and understatement of the number of families with both partners normally resident in a household. Second, a change in the question on relationships within a household will make it possible to produce statistics on de facto living arrangements and children in blended families. Third, in response to many user requests, statistics will be produced for the first time on the family structure of persons residing in caravans or mobile homes in caravan parks.

At the request of educational authorities, an additional question for those attending an educational institution will enable comprehensive statistics to be produced on characteristics of people attending various types of these institutions.

The question on the material of the outer walls of dwellings included in previous censuses is no longer considered to be a satisfactory indicator of housing conditions, and it will not be included in the 1986 Census. A number of other census questions have been simplified in order to reduce the number of responses required, without detracting from the data collected.

Public understanding and acceptance of the census is essential for statistics of high quality to be produced. For this reason a substantial public awareness campaign will be conducted prior to the census. The aims will be to make known the availability of assistance for those who, for language or other reasons, may experience difficulty in completing the form; to explain the measures taken to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided; and to explain the uses made of the statistics obtained from the census. A guide to the census containing explanatory background material on the questions and procedures will be delivered with each census form.

The ABS has given considerable attention in the last three censuses to special procedures for the enumeration of the Aboriginal population. An Occasional Paper, *An Evaluation of Census Counts of the Aboriginal Population, 1971, 1976 and 1981 Censuses*, identifying the various factors which have affected the quality of Aboriginal counts in the last three censuses, was published during the year. Organisations and individuals associated with this issue were consulted during 1984-85, seeking ways to achieve as high a coverage as possible of the Aboriginal population in the 1986 Census.

## Demography

This program provides statistics on births, deaths, marriages, divorces, overseas arrivals and departures and internal migration. Estimates are made of the age, sex, geographic distribution and birthplace of the Australian population. Forward projections of the population according to specified demographic assumptions are also published from time to time.

Activities during the year included:

- Publication of *Projections of the Populations of Australia, States and Territories, 1984 to 2021*. This includes substantial background material on the analysis of demographic trends, undertaken to formulate the assumptions on which the projections are based.
- Publication for the first time of estimates of the population by birthplace. These estimates will be updated annually.

## Other Activities

### Statistical services

This program provides a specialised service in sampling, time series analysis and other mathematical statistical techniques. Specialist services are also provided on a consultative basis to other Commonwealth and State agencies.

Examples of this type of service provided during 1984-85 are:

- Department of Employment and Industrial Relations — assistance in the design and sample selection for a survey of employment in the textile, clothing and footwear industries.
- Department of Transport — assistance in the design and sample selection for the Road User Exposure Survey.
- Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism — assistance in assessing the statistical methodology associated with a survey of recreation participation.
- Attorney-General's Department — provision of advice on sampling procedures for library stocktaking.
- Administrative Review Council — assistance in developing a questionnaire for a survey of notification practices in respect of administrative decisions.
- Victorian Tourism Commission — assistance and advice in analysing results from the Domestic Tourism Monitor.
- South Australian Department of Transport — assistance in assessing the statistical methodology associated with the analysis of road traffic accident data.
- Queensland Department of Health — assistance in the design and sample selection for a survey of public hospital outpatient departments to determine the incidence of clinically diagnosed skin cancers.

As well as providing this service, the program encompasses research into statistical theory and methods, including techniques for conducting sample surveys. During the past year the ABS has been investigating overseas experience and undertaking a number of trials in conducting personal interviews for the monthly population survey by telephone. This research has been undertaken because the proportion of Australian homes with telephones is rising to the level where it may be cheaper, and more convenient for the public, to conduct interviews for certain household surveys by telephone.

### Population survey operations

This program is responsible for conducting the monthly labour force survey and other collections from households of data of social or economic importance. It also assists with other collections such as the construction and transport industry surveys, where some of the information is collected by interviewers. An Australia-wide network of highly trained interviewers is required to undertake these surveys. A list of topics covered by recent and planned household surveys is shown in Appendix 7.



## Information services

Economic and social statistics are disseminated to Australian and international clients in the form of publications, computer printout, microfiche and magnetic tape. All ABS offices also provide an information service which responds to statistical enquiries received by telephone, mail and personal visits.

A complete list of current ABS publications, together with a description of their contents and a subject index, is contained in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications, Australia*, copies of which are available from ABS offices and bookshops of the Australian Government Publishing Service. The catalogue also lists standard releases of statistics on microfiche and magnetic tape.

In 1984-85 the ABS published 525 monthly, quarterly, annual or irregular titles in a total of 1,567 issues, ranging from single-page publications to large volumes such as year books. This compares with 514 titles and 1,566 issues in 1983-84 and 535 titles and 1,516 issues in 1982-83.

### PUBLICATIONS ISSUED DURING 1984-85

	Number of Titles								Number of Issues	
	Canberra	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	Total	
Annual	106	22	27	36	24	27	25	5	272	323
Quarterly	44	5	8	10	6	5	7	4	89	292
Monthly	50	6	9	7	5	3	6	1	87	873
Other	52	7	5	4	1	5	1	2	77	79
TOTAL	252	40	49	57	36	40	39	12	525	1 567

All publications of 25 pages or more are priced; they comprised 24 per cent of titles released in 1984-85. The ABS does not charge for smaller publications which are issued more frequently to convey timely summary statistics and which have a relatively short life.

The publication mailing lists are reviewed each year. At 30 June 1985, there were about 29,000 recipients on the lists, an increase of 1,000 since 30 June 1984. About 60 per cent of the recipients are from the business sector.

During 1984-85 233,000 copies of microfiche and 708 copies of data tapes produced from standard data releases were distributed to clients.

It is estimated that in 1984-85 the ABS answered some 309,000 inquiries for statistical information received at its offices by mail, telephone or personal visit. This represents an increase of about 11,000 (or 3.7 per cent) over 1983-84. The subjects on which statistics were most commonly sought were prices (23 per cent of inquiries), demography and population census (20 per cent), foreign trade (9 per cent) and manpower (7 per cent).

In 1984-85 the ABS answered about 134 questionnaires in response to requests for statistics from international organisations and other bodies overseas.

The ABS is examining how time series statistics might be made more readily available by providing an additional service through the CSIRONET computing network. This initiative is in response to the use of computers by an increasing number of recipients of ABS statistics to store and analyse data.

## Integrated register

The integrated register program maintains the ABS central register of businesses which consists of approximately one million business units. In excess of 800,000 changes are made to the register annually. As explained earlier in this report, the maintenance of a central register represents the most cost-effective means of providing frameworks for a range of economic censuses and sample surveys within and across various economic sectors.

The register is also used as a source of periodic analysis of the structure of the business population, cross-classifying units on the basis of those of their characteristics (e.g. industry, size, area) that are recorded in the register.

Major activities during 1984-85 were:

- A new release of software and associated reference data files which has enabled the automation of certain major parts of the register maintenance operations which were previously undertaken clerically.
- A coverage check and units survey to update units prior to the conduct of a construction industry survey.

## Computer services

The acquisition program for the central computing installation, approved in the mid-1970s, was completed in the first half of 1985 by the addition of high capacity on-line data storage equipment. Minor enhancements to the configuration and to the supporting communications network will continue to be made as needs for improvement emerge.

All ABS data entry equipment was replaced during the year by modern equipment selected to provide extra features and ergonomic benefits.

During the year the ABS completed an initial work study to identify potential costs and benefits of office automation. This work was assisted by an officer from the private sector, working with the ABS under the Interchange Program administered by the Public Service Board. The results of the study are currently being assessed and further developments in this area will be described in future issues of the Bureau's *ADP Strategic Plan*.

A study of strategic directions for computer services in the ABS has been in progress for some months. The purpose of the study is to identify requirements for the next decade and to determine the most effective strategies for meeting them, taking account of the technical and administrative environment in which the ABS operates. The findings of the study, which will be included in the 1986 *ADP Strategic Plan*, will cover the Bureau's central computing installation and communications network, and will be co-ordinated with those of the office automation study.

Some 120 statistical systems are now operating on the new computing equipment, including those for foreign trade, the agricultural census, public authority finance, retail surveys, labour force surveys, employer surveys, the population census, demography and the ABS register of businesses.

Work is progressing on the redevelopment and transfer of systems currently running on the remaining obsolete computer, due for decommissioning in late

1986; major systems involved are those processing building activity and enterprise surveys and those using time series facilities. A decision was taken during the year to defer redevelopment of the integrated economic censuses and surveys systems and to replace the small computer involved by its modern equivalent.

The number of stand-alone micro-computers installed in the ABS has been increased gradually to a total of 17, distributed across all Offices except Darwin. They are used for minor administrative and statistical tasks of a type considered unsuitable for the main computing facility. Current tasks include compilation of the consumer price index, preparatory compilation of national accounts input data, amalgamation of public authority finance data preparatory to main processing, some small complete statistical systems and decision support functions for some executive staff.

Training of specialist computer staff and statistical subject matter officers on all aspects of computing has continued at a high level, accounting for a total of 40 staff years. Numbers of courses conducted internally, numbers attending, and staff years spent on courses in 1984-85 were:

	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Attendees</i>	<i>Staff years</i>
Computer specialists	61	858	10.2
General training (mainly subject matter officers)	261	2 372	29.8

### **Co-ordination**

The ABS maintains contact with Commonwealth and State government departments and authorities in order to be aware of their statistical activities, their use of existing statistical collections and their current and future statistical needs.

The Bureau also plays a continuing role in developing greater co-ordination of statistical activities across government agencies. In particular, it encourages the adoption of uniform standards and practices and fosters a co-ordinated approach to statistical development.

An important element of this work is the outposted officer service, through which ABS officers are located in other government departments and agencies. A complete list of departments and agencies to which ABS officers were outposted during 1984-85 is shown in Appendix 8. In addition, from time to time, officers are outposted to provide short-term assistance on specific tasks for other departments.

Reviews of existing and proposed statistical collections by other Commonwealth departments and agencies, as required under the ABS statistical co-ordination arrangements introduced in January 1984, continued throughout the year. Each of these reviews involves the production of a report, prepared jointly by officers of the ABS and the agency directly responsible for the collection concerned. The main objectives of the review process are to ensure the compatibility of the statistics produced with data from other sources, the avoidance of duplication and the minimisation of respondent burden. During 1984-85, joint reports were completed for 14 collections (7 new and 7 existing) conducted by 7 agencies. In general, the co-ordination objectives outlined above were met.

An integral feature of the new co-ordination arrangements is the establishment and maintenance by the ABS of a central register of Commonwealth statistical collections, to provide a framework of information for the purposes of co-ordinating collections by departments and authorities. A mail survey of Commonwealth statistical collections relating to 1983-84 was conducted to obtain the information necessary to construct this register, which will have two distinct functions:

- To identify all existing collections which are subject to the joint review process.
- To provide source material for a catalogue of all Commonwealth statistical collections (including ABS and administrative by-product collections). This catalogue is expected to be released later in 1985.

At the State level, the ABS participates in the work of statistical co-ordination bodies established by State governments to co-ordinate the statistical activities and requirements of their departments and agencies. These bodies provide a priorities-setting mechanism and means of formulating a single State view on statistical requirements and other issues.

### ***Freedom of Information Act***

Facilitating access to available statistical information, subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Census and Statistics Act, is of course a major function of the Bureau and application of the provisions of the FOI Act within the ABS needs to be viewed against that background.

During the year, the ABS received 29 and responded to 28 requests for access to documents under the FOI Act. This compares with 16 requests received and answered in 1983-84.

Fourteen requests were granted in full. Of these, five were for statistical information, some of which was publicly available on request; six were for copies of personal papers, which in two cases it was decided to release only through a medical practitioner; one was for a copy of an instruction manual; one was for a copy of staff selection documents; and one was for documents relating to a feature of the Cameron Offices complex occupied by the ABS.

Of the other 15 requests received during the year, seven were granted in part; two of these related to a copy of an internal administrative document from which it was necessary to delete exempt material under relevant sections of the FOI Act; one was a request for statistical data, some of which, under section 45 of the FOI Act, could not be provided because of the confidentiality provisions of the Census and Statistics Act; three were requests for copies of documents which required the deletion of exempt material under section 41 of the FOI Act and the seventh request was for statistical information, some of which was not collected by the ABS. Two requests were transferred to other agencies as they were for documents more closely connected with the operations of the transferee agencies. Three requests sought access to information which was confidential and were refused. One of these led to a request for a review of the initial decision by the Principal Officer of the ABS. The Principal Officer upheld the original decision not to grant access to the information sought. Two requests were withdrawn. A reply to one request is pending.

All of the requests were responded to within the statutory time limit; the average time taken was 25 days. Fees charged for documents provided under the FOI Act amounted to \$128.30 of which \$38.60 was outstanding at 30 June 1985.

In view of the small number of requests involved, responsibility for matters relating to the operation of the FOI Act within the ABS is exercised by the Co-ordination Branch in Canberra. Authority for decision-making under the Act has been delegated to the Assistant Statistician (Level 1) in charge of this Branch. However, comprehensive information on the Act has been supplied to all ABS staff with an instruction that all FOI requests should be referred to the Branch immediately they are received. Officers of the Branch have attended periodic meetings of the FOI Practitioners' Forum arranged by the Public Service Board. Other than the foregoing, no special arrangements have been found necessary.

Work entailed in implementing provisions of the FOI Act has engaged a substantial part of the time of one middle level officer during the year, plus the attention from time to time of a number of other officers — slightly over one staff year in total.

### **Data management**

The data management program aims to improve the organisation of the ABS's data in order to increase its usefulness and reduce costs. This includes attention to:

- Consistency in describing and classifying data.
- Security of the data against unauthorised access or accidental loss.
- Policies on retention periods for data.
- Co-ordination of the development of computer systems for handling data.


During 1984-85, co-ordinating and monitoring the transition of computing systems from the ABS's older computers to the new computing network continued to be a major task. The program also contributed to the development of long term computing strategies.

The program also undertakes ad hoc reviews and special assignments at the direction of the Statistician. Two such assignments undertaken in 1984-85 were investigation of the impact of new computing systems on clerical staff; and of internal audit and other review activities within the ABS.

### **Management services**

Management services units are responsible for personnel services, recruitment, industrial relations, staff development and training, financial control and accounting, general office services, accommodation, security, internal consultancy methods, staff ceiling administration and internal audit.

Activities during the year were closely tied to the recommendations of the Joint Management Review (JMR), as is the future of the various management services programs. During the year, the workload pressures referred to in the previous annual report continued to increase and this, together with increased workload associated with implementation of the JMR, has again restricted the scope for undertaking significant initiatives. However, now that the recommendations of the JMR are beginning to be implemented, there should be some improvement in the coming year. In particular, reorganisation of Co-ordination and Management Division in Central Office, which essentially spreads management services tasks across two Branches (Management Support and Management Improvement), and proposed strengthening of management services units in State Offices, will provide the capacity to cope better with the increasing workload and necessary developments.



There were some changes in industrial relations practices during the year. After discussions with ACOA and APSA representatives, councils have been established to facilitate consultation between ABS management and those unions. The National Consultative Council (NCC), which held its first meeting on 30 May 1985, comprises five members of ABS management, three ACOA representatives and two APSA representatives, and is concerned with national issues and policies. There is also a consultative council in each ABS State Office to deal with local issues.

The ABS has begun to develop plans for equal employment opportunity and industrial democracy in accordance with the requirements of the *Public Service Reform Act 1984*. The plans will be developed and discussed by the NCC before being submitted to the Public Service Board.

Training in statistical, managerial and clerical skills increased during the year. Officers spent a total of 66 staff years attending courses, as follows:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Staff years</i>
Paid leave under studies assistance	33.0
In-house training	20.6
External courses and conferences	5.2
Interchange and other schemes	7.3

### **Public relations**

The Public Relations Unit continued to give priority to developing and implementing ways of making better contact with people required to complete statistical returns, so as to improve the quality of the information provided. Initiatives have included more attention to explaining the reasons for the collections, their value in social and economic decision-making, and strict measures to preserve confidentiality, as well as continuing attention to simplifying the wording and presentation of ABS questionnaires. In May, consultants were asked to advise on design and wording of questionnaires and other material, with the aim of improving ABS communication with respondents.

### **Socspo 85**

Three years of planning and fund raising in all ABS offices culminated in the running of the fifth successful SOCSPO (SOCial SPORts) carnival since 1969. In January 1985 Hobart hosted 500 participants in the week-long carnival including 300 interstate visitors representing all other ABS offices. The purpose of SOCSPO is to generate goodwill and understanding among staff of the various ABS offices, by means of participation, in an informal atmosphere, in numerous social and sporting events.

It is planned to hold the next SOCSPO carnival in Sydney in 1988 to complement Bicentenary celebrations.

# Appendix 1

## DISTRIBUTION OF FULL-TIME OPERATIVE STAFF: 1984-85

Program	Average monthly staff numbers, 1984-85(a)								Total
	Canberra	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	
Executive	28	5	3	3	3	4	3	1	50
National Accounts	49	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	53
International Accounts	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Prices	47	18	16	9	8	7	4	3	112
Public Finance	36	11	12	8	5	7	5	..	84
Private Finance	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Agriculture	28	27	26	18	15	12	6	2	134
Construction	23	18	14	10	7	5	3	1	81
Transport and Tourism	18	8	18	13	5	5	4	1	72
Mining and Energy	10	6	3	5	3	..	1	1	29
Manufacturing	16	30	35	11	10	10	3	1	116
Retailing and Wholesaling	14	15	13	10	6	5	3	..	66
Economic Censuses System	18	6	11	2	1	1	1	..	40
Enterprise Statistics	43	9	7	6	2	3	1	1	72
Classification	22	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	27
Economic Statistics Integration	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Trade	76	..	..	2	9	4	10	..	101
Social Surveys and Indicators	41	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	44
Social Statistics	33	14	15	21	8	10	4	..	105
Manpower	84	44	26	17	9	12	6	5	203
Population Census	50	5	5	4	3	3	1	1	72
Demography	28	17	12	7	6	4	4	1	79
Data Services and Analysis	26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Statistical Services	45	4	6	4	4	4	2	..	69
Population Survey Operations	31	29	25	24	13	18	6	2	148
Information Services	82	26	24	19	12	12	7	3	185
Integrated Register	35	61	47	30	17	18	5	2	215
Computer Technical Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
and Planning	100	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	188
Computer Applications	119	13	11	12	11	12	10	..	..
Computer Operations and Software	151	49	38	33	24	22	13	..	330
Co-ordination	32	5	5	4	2	4	1	..	53
Data Management	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	17
Establishments and Methods	20	3	2	1	1	1	..	..	28
Finance and General Services	127	37	36	23	16	19	11	2	271
Personnel Management	67	13	14	13	8	8	7	1	131
Total	1 635	477	429	312	211	212	122	28	3 426

(a) Excludes staff on long service leave, maternity leave, extended sick leave, etc for periods of twelve weeks or longer. Where officers undertake duties within more than one program they have been classified to that program which occupies most of their time. The symbol .. can mean either 'less than half' or 'nil'.

## Appendix 2

### TOP STRUCTURE AND STAFF OF THE ABS AT 30 JUNE 1985

Australian Statistician  
*R.J. Cameron, CB*

*Division*

Economic Accounts  
*F.J. von Reibnitz*

Demography, Social and  
Manpower  
*F.D. Bagley*

Economic Censuses and  
Surveys  
*D.J. Trewin*

Statistical and User Services  
*W. McLennan*

Computer Services  
*E.W.W. Miller*

Co-ordination and  
Management  
*R.W. Edwards*

Deputy Statistician  
*A.R. Bagnall*

*Branch*

National Accounts  
*K.R. Blackburn*  
Public and Private Finance  
*T.C.D. Smith*  
Prices  
*L.C. Clements*  
International Accounts  
*B.J. Dunlop*

Social  
*M. D. Giles*  
Manpower  
*G. Sarossy*  
Population Census and Demography  
*J.K. Cornish*

Trade and Transport  
*A.J. Whittington*  
Manufacturing and Distribution  
*R.P. Green*  
Construction and Business Surveys  
*J.F. Wilson*

Statistical Services  
*D.C. Leaver*  
User Services  
*M.B. Booth*  
Data Services  
*B.N. Pink*

Technical Services and Planning(a)  
*B.H. Crook*  
*W.O. Egan*  
Applications  
*D.A. Harding*  
Operations and Software  
*J.V. Crocker*

Management Improvement  
*D.C. Efford*  
Management Support  
*J.W. Maurer*  
Management Review  
*C.J. Dent (acting)*  
Co-ordination  
*P.G. Howell*

(a) This Branch is headed by a Senior Assistant Statistician, supported by an Assistant Statistician.



TOP STRUCTURE AND STAFF OF THE ABS AT 30 JUNE 1985—continued

*The offices in State capitals and in Darwin were headed by:*

Sydney	<i>T.J. Skinner</i>
Melbourne	<i>E.D. Bourke</i>
Brisbane	<i>D.N. Allen</i>
Perth	<i>W.M. Bartlett</i>
Adelaide	<i>G.C. Sims</i>
Hobart	<i>G.D. Cocking</i>
Darwin	<i>R.J. Rogers</i>

## Appendix 3

### EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS: 1983-84, 1984-85 AND ESTIMATES: 1985-86 (\$' 000)

	Actual 1983-84	Actual 1984-85	Estimated 1985-86(a)
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Salaries	75 869	81 753	86 492
Overtime	698	808	854
<i>Total subdivision 1</i>	<i>76 567</i>	<i>82 561</i>	<i>87 346</i>
Travel and subsistence	1 666	1 990	2 282
Office requisites	4 239	5 825	8 704
Postage and telephones	4 033	4 704	5 120
Computer services	4 489	3 836	4 007
Incidentals	1 790	2 493	4 060
<i>Total subdivision 2</i>	<i>16 217</i>	<i>18 848</i>	<i>24 173</i>
Payments to agents	4 574	5 089	6 976
Compensation and legal expenses	—	249	200
<i>Total subdivision 3</i>	<i>4 574</i>	<i>5 338</i>	<i>7 176</i>
<i>Total division</i>	<i>97 358</i>	<i>106 747</i>	<i>118 695</i>
<i>Plant and equipment</i>	<i>1 915</i>	<i>(b)10 026</i>	<i>2 620</i>
Special Appropriation—			
Australian Statistician	68	78	80
Australian Statistics Advisory Council	11	12	15
Ethnicity Committee	2	—	—
<i>Total Special Appropriation</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>Total expenditure</i>	<i>99 353</i>	<i>116 862</i>	<i>121 410</i>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Proceeds from 'for sale' publications(c)	418	487	566
Proceeds from sale of special compilations of foreign trade statistics	197	157	200
Recovery of costs for use of ABS computers by client organisations(d)	469	11	10
Miscellaneous	216	257	426
<i>Total receipts</i>	<i>1 300</i>	<i>912</i>	<i>1 202</i>

(a) As included in Appropriation Bills Nos 1 and 2 and Special Appropriations.

(b) Principally outlay associated with computer enhancement program.

(c) Excludes receipts by AGPS from sales of ABS publications.

(d) Decrease from 1983-84 due to Department of Trade having ceased to use ABS computing facilities.

Note: Any differences between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

## Appendix 4

### DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM: 1982-83 TO 1984-85

The following table shows total ABS expenditure for the years 1982-83 to 1984-85 allocated to statistical and service programs. The allocation of certain components of expenditure, eg salaries, is based on actual resource usage by individual programs but others, eg postage and telephones, are distributed on a pro rata basis. The table also shows an estimate of the cost of individual statistical programs, after allocating costs of service programs according to estimates of their use by individual statistical programs. Some of the year-to-year movements reflect the timing of periodic collections.

Program	Estimated expenditure								
	1982-83			1983-84			1984-85		
	Direct	Total(a)		Direct	Total(a)		Direct	Total(a)	
	\$' 000	\$' 000	%	\$' 000	\$' 000	%	\$' 000	\$' 000	%
Executive	2 200	..	..	2 390	..	..	2 585	..	..
National Accounts(b)	1 495	2 372	2.7	1 525	2 563	2.7	1 631	2 800	2.8
International Accounts	1 630	2 570	2.9	2 215	3 682	4.0	2 298	4 218	4.2
Prices	2 580	3 724	4.2	2 846	4 107	4.4	3 162	4 542	4.5
Public Finance	2 262	4 179	4.8	2 471	4 883	5.2	2 383	4 715	4.7
Private Finance	1 071	1 699	1.9	1 183	2 004	2.2	1 102	1 913	1.9
Agriculture	3 318	8 038	9.2	2 927	7 589	8.1	3 373	8 210	8.2
Construction	1 638	3 504	4.0	1 708	3 380	3.6	2 159	7 315	7.3
Transport and Tourism	1 842	5 135	5.9	1 546	6 423	6.9	1 972	5 471	5.5
Mining and Energy	695	1 644	1.9	665	1 628	1.7	802	1 839	1.8
Manufacturing	2 738	6 561	7.5	2 884	6 698	7.2	3 007	7 004	7.0
Retailing and Wholesaling	2 071	6 529	7.5	1 531	4 831	5.2	1 617	4 449	4.5
Economic Censuses									
System	858	..	..	863	..	..	1 014	..	..
Enterprise Statistics	1 593	3 906	4.5	1 761	3 813	4.1	1 941	4 351	4.4
Classification	1 031	..	..	925	..	..	872	..	..
Economic Statistics									
Integration	683	..	..	313	..	..	251	..	..
Trade	2 303	5 024	5.7	2 466	4 981	5.3	2 705	5 606	5.6
Social Surveys and									
Indicators	809	1 799	2.1	1 195	3 769	4.0	1 462	4 005	4.0
Social Statistics	2 551	7 132	8.1	2 662	6 655	7.1	2 743	5 558	5.6
Manpower	3 496	18 256	20.8	5 227	21 004	22.5	6 300	22 500	22.5
Population Census(c)									
Demography	1 810	3 898	4.4	1 837	3 590	3.9	2 016	3 911	3.9

continued overleaf

**DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAM: 1982-83 TO 1984-85**  
—continued

Program	Estimated expenditure								
	1982-83			1983-84			1984-85		
	Direct	Total(a)		Direct	Total(a)		Direct	Total(a)	
	\$' 000	\$' 000	%	\$' 000	\$' 000	%	\$' 000	\$' 000	%
Data Services and Analysis	797	797	0.9	907	866	0.9	772	813	0.8
Statistical Services	1 925	..	..	2 011	..	..	2 045	..	..
Population Survey Operations	9 580	..	..	10 001	..	..	10 269	..	..
Information Services	5 024	..	..	5 212	..	..	5 844	..	..
Integrated Register	3 571	..	..	4 988	..	..	5 285	..	..
Computer Technical Services and Planning	2 700	..	..	2 813	..	..	3 132	..	..
Computer Applications	5 411	..	..	5 401	..	..	5 911	..	..
Computer Operations and Software	11 778	..	..	11 536	..	..	11 336	..	..
Co-ordination	1 420	..	..	1 647	..	..	1 775	..	..
Data Management Establishments and Methods	497	..	..	585	..	..	581	..	..
Finance and General Services	839	..	..	870	..	..	838	..	..
Personnel Management	4 987	..	..	5 295	..	..	6 085	..	..
	2 799	..	..	3 292	..	..	3 612	..	..
Non-ABS(d)	..	919	1.0	..	891	1.0	..	809	0.8
Total excluding population census and capital cost of plant and equipment	90 002	87 689	100.0	95 697	93 297	100.0	102 880	100 029	100.0
Population Census	1 430	3 744	..	1 741	4 141	..	3 955	6 807	..
Plant and Equipment(e)	6 958	6 958	..	1 915	1 915	..	10 026	10 026	..
Total including population census and capital cost of plant and equipment	98 389	98 389	..	99 353	99 353	..	116 862	116 862	..

(a) Statistical programs only; includes estimated costs of service programs allocated in accordance with usage on statistical programs.

(b) The costs of collecting data used in compiling the national accounts are included in the respective subject matter programs.

(c) Excluded from distribution because of large annual variations during the quinquennial cycle.

(d) General services to other government departments and agencies of which the major component is the provision of ABS computer services.

(e) Includes expenditure on the computer enhancement program.

Note: Any differences between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

# Appendix 5

## PROGRAM OF INDUSTRY COLLECTIONS

<i>Reference year</i>	<i>Industry scope</i>
1977-78	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities
1978-79	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Construction
1979-80	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Retail, Selected Services
1980-81	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities
1981-82	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Wholesale
1982-83	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities
1983-84	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Transport
1984-85	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Construction
1985-86	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Retail
1986-87	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Services Industries: Part 1
1987-88	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Services Industries: Part 2
1988-89	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Transport
1989-90	Mining, Manufacturing, Utilities, Construction

## Appendix 6

### PROPOSALS TABLED IN PARLIAMENT: 1984-85

In accordance with section 6(3) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*, the following proposals for collection of additional information for statistical purposes were tabled in both Houses of Parliament during 1984-85.

<i>Date tabled</i>	<i>Project</i>
21 August 1984	Upgraded quarterly survey of outlays and revenues of local government authorities, from September quarter 1984.
4 September 1984	Collection of lending commitments by financial institutions, January 1985 and monthly thereafter; and collection of data from financial institutions, 1984-85 and annually thereafter.
11 September 1984	Survey of domestic energy usage and acquisition of appliances in New South Wales, October 1984. Survey of travel to work, school and shop in Victoria, October 1984. Survey of participation in secondary education in Queensland, October 1984. Survey of bicycle usage and safety in South Australia, October 1984. Survey of family holiday travel in Tasmania, October 1984. Survey of participation in non-formal adult education in South Australia, December 1984.
21 February 1985	Survey of public unit trusts, June quarter 1985 and quarterly thereafter.
27 March 1985	Survey of household energy usage, 1985-86. Survey of re-entrants to the labour force, May 1985. Survey of underemployment, May 1985.

# Appendix 7

## TOPICS OF MONTHLY AND SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY POPULATION SURVEYS

### MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

#### Recent topics

1984—

February	Labour force experience. Labour mobility. Educational qualifications.
March	Persons not in the labour force. Migrant sponsorship and support.
May	Initial entrance to the labour force. Apprentices. Leave arrangements. Health insurance.
June	Ex-service personnel, widows and children.
July	Persons looking for work. Family status of the labour force. Internal migration.
August	Weekly earnings of employees. Employment benefits.
September	Persons not in the labour force. Retirement intentions.
October	Various topics suggested by State Governments.
November	Child care.

1985—

February	Labour force experience. Labour mobility. Educational attainment.
March	Persons not in the labour force.
May	Transition from education to work. Apprentices. Re-entrants to the labour force. Underemployment.

#### Planned Topics

1985—

July	Persons looking for work. Family status of the labour force. Internal migration.
------	--

## TOPICS OF MONTHLY AND SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY POPULATION SURVEYS—continued

### MONTHLY SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

August	Weekly earnings. Employment benefits. Multiple job holding.
September	Persons not in the labour force.
October	Reserved for topics suggested by State Governments.
November	Exits from the labour force.
1986—	
February	Labour force experience. Labour mobility. Educational attainment.
March	Persons not in the labour force. Health insurance.
May	Transition from education to work. Apprentices. Household telephone connections.
June	Job search experience of unemployed persons. Family status of the labour force. Internal migration. Method of obtaining job.

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

#### Recent topics

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1981 | Survey of Handicapped Persons, which was conducted as the ABS contribution to the International Year of the Disabled, and collected information on types and distribution of disabilities and handicaps in the population.  |
| 1982 | Survey of Families, which collected information on various characteristics of different types of families, such as single parent families. It also collected information on patterns of work, such as shift work.<br><br>Survey of Income, which collected information on amount and source of income for individuals and households. |
| 1983 | Survey of Health, Tourism and Crime Victims, which collected information on the incidence of certain diseases, health care, holiday trips, and the incidence and effects of certain types of crime.   |
| 1984 | Household Expenditure Survey.   |

#### Planned topics

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1985-86 | Household Energy Usage.                    |
| 1986-87 | Income and Housing Costs.                  |
| 1987-88 | Domestic Care of the Handicapped and Aged. |

*Note:* Further details of these surveys are contained in the ABS Information Paper, *Population Survey Program* issued in January 1985.



## Appendix 8

### LOCATION OF OUTPOSTED ABS OFFICERS: 1984-85

#### Commonwealth

Department of Aboriginal Affairs  
Department of Aviation(a)  
Department of Employment and Industrial Relations  
Department of Health  
Department of Housing and Construction  
Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs  
Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce  
Department of Primary Industry  
Department of Resources and Energy  
Department of Social Security(b)  
Department of Trade  
Department of Transport  
Australian Institute of Criminology(a)  
Bureau of Mineral Resources  
Industries Assistance Commission  
National Occupational Health and Safety Commission(a)

#### State

New South Wales —Housing Commission of NSW(a)  
—State Library of NSW(a)  
—Department of Environment and Planning(a)  
—Department of Technical and Further Education(a)  
—Office of Director of Equal Opportunity in Public  
Employment(a)

Victoria —Department of Management and Budget(a)  
—Health Commission(a)  
—Metropolitan Transit Authority(a)  
—Industry Councils Secretariat(a)  
—Department of Community Services(a)  
—Office of Minerals and Energy(a)

Queensland —Department of Mines  
—Department of Health(a)

**LOCATION OF OUTPOSTED ABS OFFICERS: 1984-85—continued**

- Western Australia —Department for Community Welfare(a)  
—Metropolitan Market Trust(a)  
—State Energy Commission(a)  
—Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust(a)  
—Education Department(a)  
—The Treasury(a)
- South Australia —Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
—Department of the Arts(a)  
—Office of Crimes Statistics(a)  
—Department for Community Welfare(a)  
—Department of Transport(a)
- Tasmania —The Law Department(a)  
—Department for Community Welfare(a)  
—Education Department(a)

(a) Fixed term posting.

(b) Including work on the Standardisation of Social Welfare Statistics (WELSTAT) project and on child care statistics.

## Appendix 9

### PROFESSIONAL PAPERS PRESENTED BY ABS OFFICERS: 1984-85

During 1984-85 officers of the ABS prepared the following professional papers:

D. Aitken : *Progress Towards Migration from OSIV/F4 E40 to MSP E20 at the Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Presented to the Fourth Annual Conference of the FACOM Users Association of Australia, Adelaide, April 1985.

J. Allen : *Family Data for the 1986 Population Census*. Presented to the Urban and Regional Planning Information Systems (URPIS 12) Conference, Wollongong, November 1984.

F. D. Bagley : *Demographic Trends*. Presented to the Menzies Foundation Workshop 'Leisure Education for Ages Forty-five and Over', December 1984.

K. Bennett and C. Lahiff : *Job Priority Mechanisms Used in the Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Presented to the Fourth Annual Conference of the FACOM Users Association of Australia, Adelaide, April 1985.

K.R. Blackburn : *ABS Measures Used to Estimate Productivity*. Presented to Bureau of Labour Market Research Workshop on Productivity, Canberra, November 1984.

K.R. Blackburn : *Limits of Economic Measurement*. Presented to the Queensland Branch of the Economic Society, Brisbane, June 1985.

A. Carr : *The First ABS Transport Industry Survey, 1983-84 : An Overview*. Presented to the Australian Transport Research Forum, Melbourne, May 1985.

C.Y. Choi : *Aboriginal Enumeration in the 1976 and 1981 Censuses*. Presented to the Second National Conference of the Australian Population Association, Sydney, December 1984.

G. Feeney, P. Boal and R. Hinde : *An Investigation into Rotation Bias in the ABS Monthly Labour Force Survey*. Presented to the Seventh Australian Statistical Conference, Brisbane, August 1984.

W.F. Gross, G. Bode, J.M. Taylor and C.W. Lloyd-Smith : *Some Finite Population Estimators which Reduce the Contribution of Outliers*. Presented to the Pacific Statistical Congress, Auckland, May 1985.

P. Gretton : *A Report on the Australian System of Input-Output Tables*. Presented to the Ninth Annual Conference of the Regional Science Association, Australia and New Zealand, Melbourne, December 1984.

M. Hannan : *Backup Migration and Archival Facilities and Procedures at the Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Presented to the Fourth Annual Conference of the FACOM Users Association of Australia, Adelaide, April 1985.

P.J. Hughes : *Estimating Movement with Ratio Estimates of Level*. Presented to the Seventh Australian Statistical Conference, Brisbane, August 1984.

D. Jacobs (Queensland Office) : *Socio-Economic Information Systems in Planning Using Small Area ABS Data*. Presented to the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (AURISA), Brisbane, December 1984.

**PROFESSIONAL PAPERS PRESENTED BY ABS OFFICERS: 1984-85—continued**

D. Michaels (New South Wales Office) : *Official Building Statistics—the Involvement of Councils*. Presented to the Seventy-third Annual Conference of the Australian Institute of Health Surveyors (NSW Division) and the Twelfth Annual Conference of the Building Surveyors Institute of New South Wales, Sydney, September 1984.

E.W.W. Miller : *ADP Strategic Planning for a National Statistical Agency—An Overview*. Presented to the 19th Session of the EDP Working Party of the Conference of European Statisticians, Geneva, February 1985.

D. Neuhaus : *Australian Criminal Justice Statistics*. Presented to the 1985 Biennial Criminological Research Seminar, Canberra, February 1985.

R.J. Rogers (Northern Territory Office) : *The ABS Labour Force Survey—An Overview*. Presented to the Annual Conference of the Northern Australian Research Unit of the Australian National University, Darwin, June 1985.

G. Sarossy : *Measuring Unemployment—the ABS Approach*. Presented to the Canberra Branch of the Statistical Society of Australia, Canberra, April 1985.

R.J. Walters : *Towards a Framework for State Accounts in Australia*. Presented to the Ninth Annual Conference of the Regional Science Association, Australia and New Zealand, Melbourne, December 1984.